

A Small Introduction to a Big Idea: THE EUROPEAN UNION

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Today's Goals

- Provide a very brief overview of the EU, its history and its institutions
- Highlight the special relationship between the U.S. & EU
- Note some challenges on the horizon



www.gwu.edu

Where is the European Union?



www.europa.eu.int

What is the European Union?

- 27 countries
- One currency for most
- 450 million people
- A state, a nation, or some new type of government?



With (almost) one currency



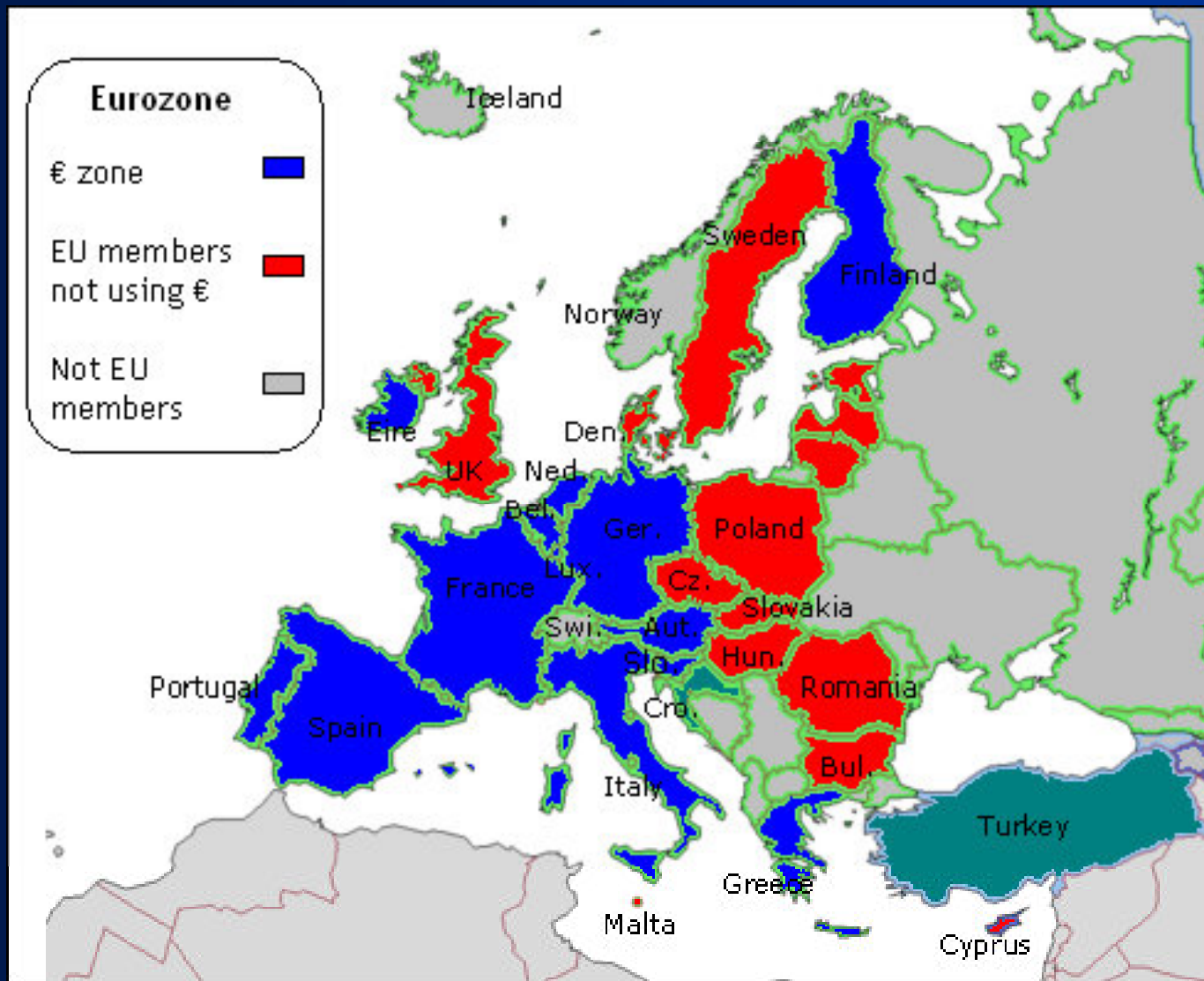
ec.europa.eu

**The Euro
arrived in 2002**

Now for 16 of 27 states

But first, some history

The Euro-zone 16

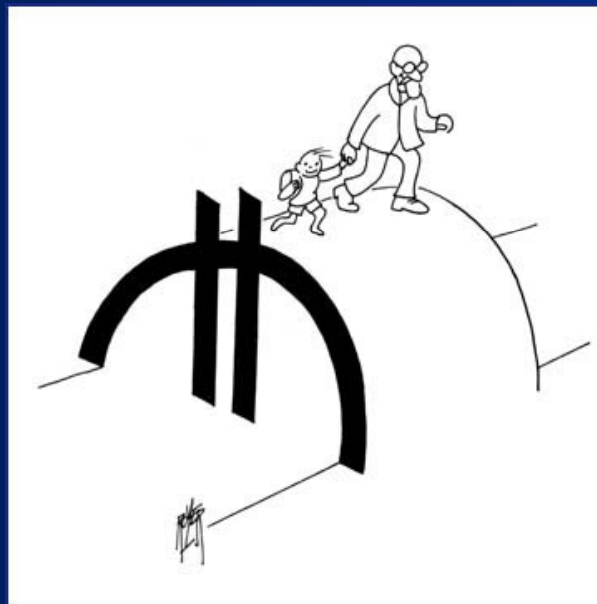


A modest beginning - Coal and Steel (and a little scrap metal too)

1951 The European Coal and Steel Community

50 years of spill over later . . .

1999 The Euro is introduced as the bridge to the future



Audiovisual services
ec.europa.eu

Uniting Europe:

Who were these founders
What were their aims?

Jean Monnet



Robert Schuman



Signing of
Treaty of Rome



De Gaulle's Europe



Goals:

- Modernization
- Strengthen a Franco-German Axis (rapprochement) in a European framework
- Trade-off: Common agric. policy supports French, while Germany benefits from tariff removal for its growing industry

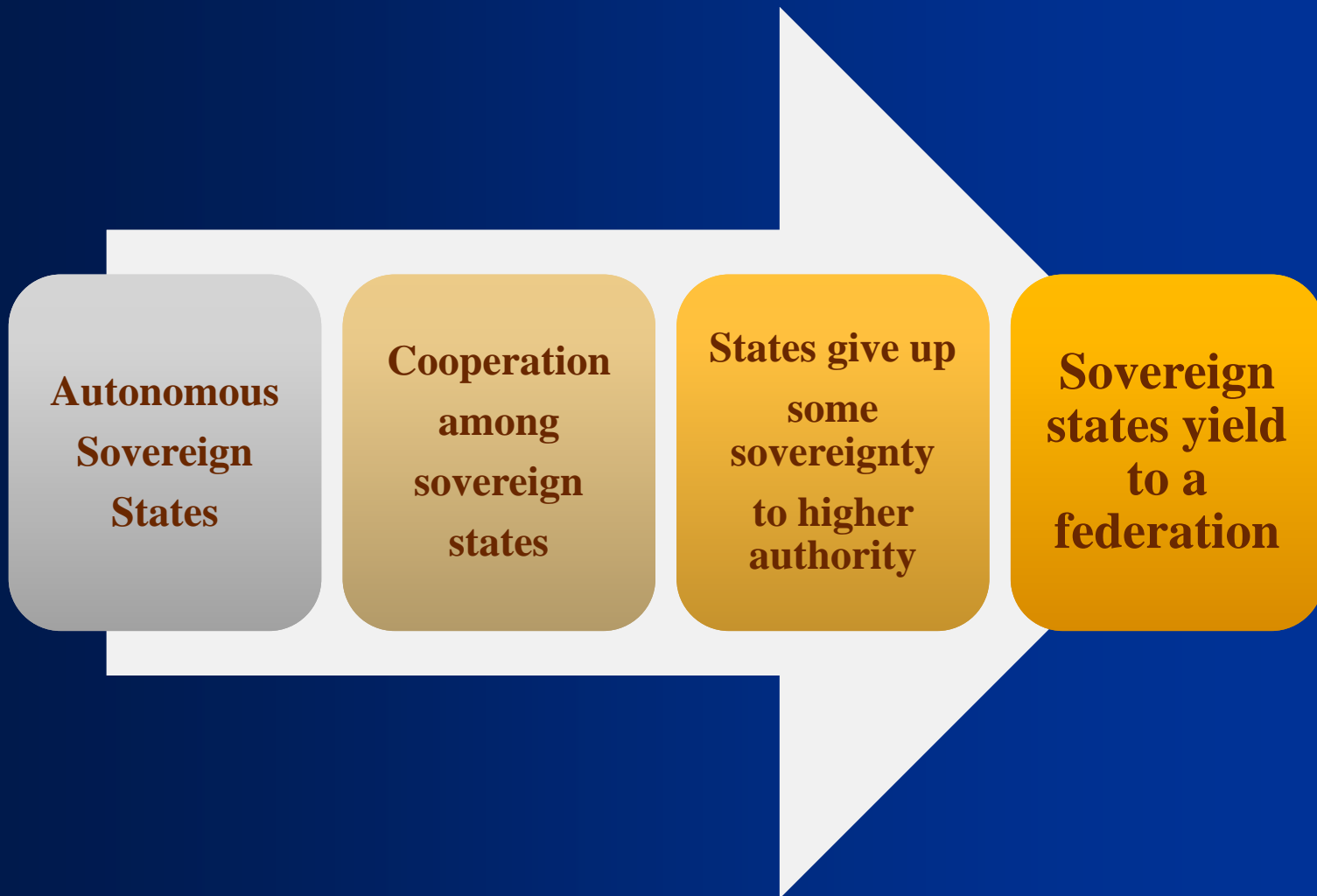
Historical review

- For 200 years, nation-state has been dominant form of government
 - Citizens identify themselves as members of a single (national) group governed by a single state.
 - Sense of “us v. them” creates national unity
 - State-building force
- Nationalism’s costs
 - Persecution of non-national minorities (Holocaust)
 - Civil war among groups trying to coexist in single space (former Yugoslavia)
 - International war (WWI and WWII)

Integration as a “fix”

- If ultimate goal is political unity between formerly sovereign states . . .
 - Will it be done all at once or over time?
 - Unity, pan-europa, integration, power-sharing not new
- After WWII, problem seems to be nationalism and the nation-state.
 - If it continues to exist, rulers will keep using nationalism to detrimental ends
 - Propose a cooperative form of government
 - “Smother” independent nation-state with higher level requiring cooperation between enemies?

Process of Political Integration



Federalism

- Independent states negotiate an end to their sovereignty
 - Create a new government
 - Example: US formed when states abolished articles of confederation and formed unified federal state

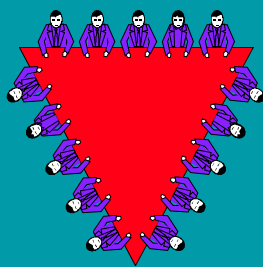


- Churchill's call for United States of Europe remains unfulfilled. Why?
 - Problem: Requires most contentious decision first (even U.S. tried other arrangements first!)
 - Some European leaders not ready to give up sovereignty. Integrationists had to find new way.

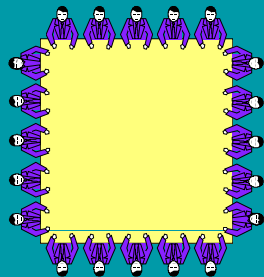
Key Terms to Integration

- Level (of policy-making authority)
 - Can the new organization make *binding* decisions?
 - “Deepening” increases level of authority
 - Treaty referring to an “ever deeper union” means ever more levels of authority to EU
- Scope
 - Number of areas of government activity for group
 - Widening scope = increased “competence” (powers) for the EU (but these need not be very deep)

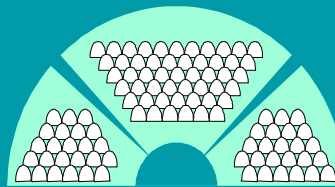
INSTITUTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



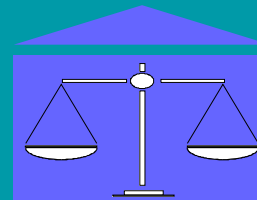
COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION



EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT



COURT OF
JUSTICE



COURT OF
AUDITORS



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

COMMITTEE
OF THE
REGIONS

ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL
COMMITTEE

OMBUDSMAN



First Expansion: January 1, 1973

Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom join the Community



All photos: European Commission Audiovisual Library

Changing perceptions of EU power

A poll of the British electorate in 1999 asked:

Twenty years from now, which institutions will have the greatest power over your lives: the EP and the EU, or the Westminster Parliament (i.e., british government)?

44% said the EU

22% said the Westminster Parliament



Today, more than half of all legislation passed by national parliament has its origins at the EU level

EU-US Relations

Long, and good, relations



- US historically supportive of integration
 - Marshall plan incentives (then)
 - Cooperation on terrorism (today)
- We are one another's largest trading partner and deepest mutual friend
- Problem of “asymmetries”
 - difference in government structures and goals
 - results in misunderstandings, communication problems, slow policy decisions

Common ground

EU and US have far more in common than not

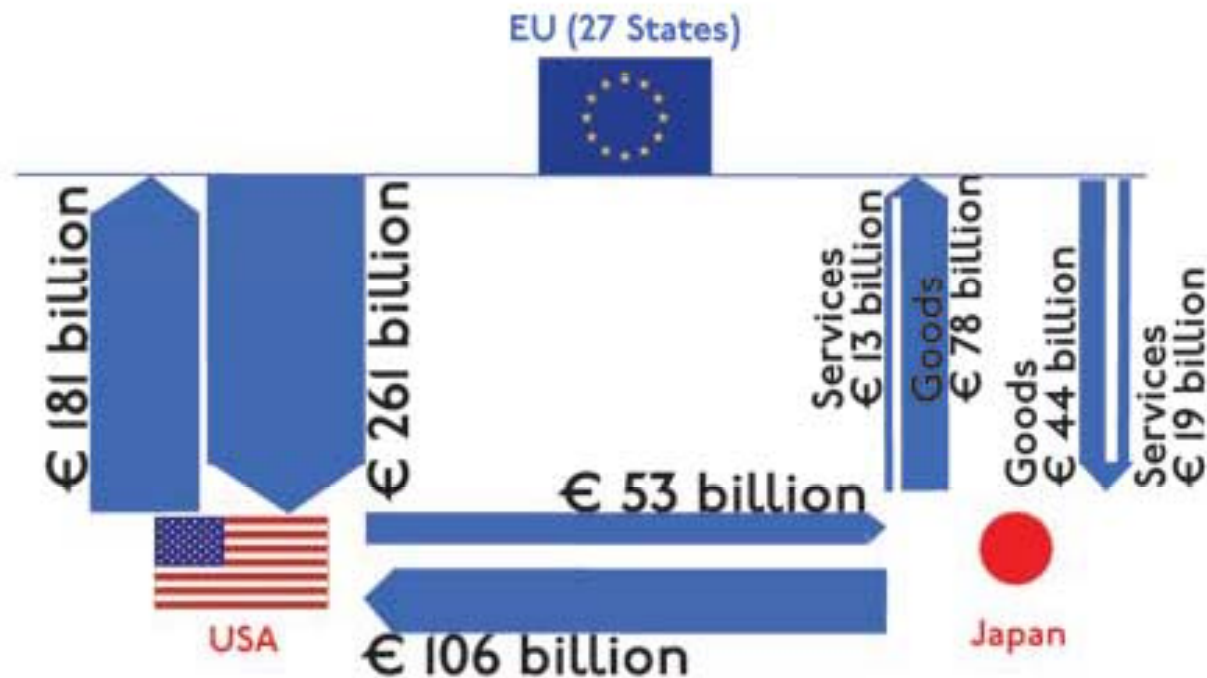
- Each other's largest trading partner
- Trade disagreements affect 0.2-2% of all trade
- Desire to promote WTO on global scale
- Promote trade via Transatlantic Business Dialogue



www.useu.be
Celebrating 50 years
Of EU-US relations

The EU-US relationship

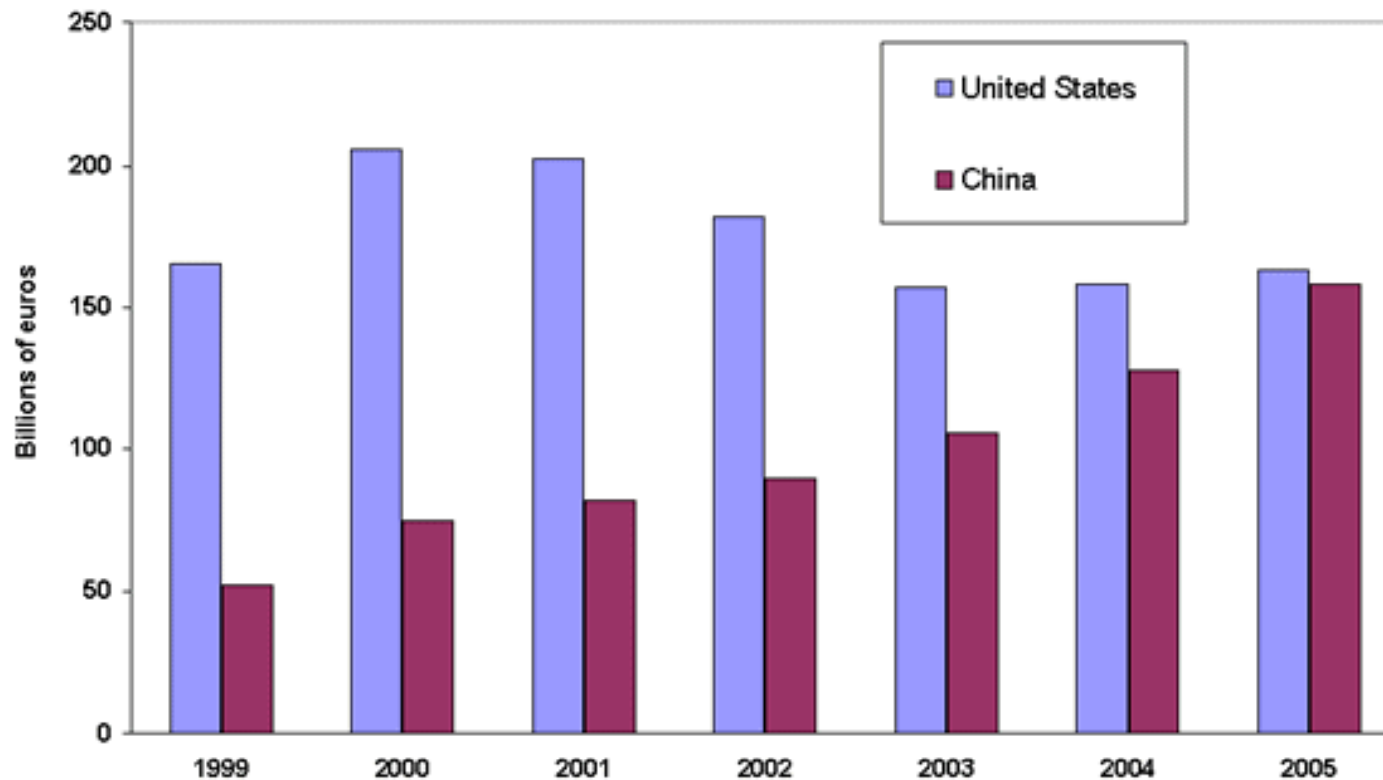
Trade balance 2007 (data: EU)



(c) 2008 Eurotechnology Japan KK
www.eurotechnology.com

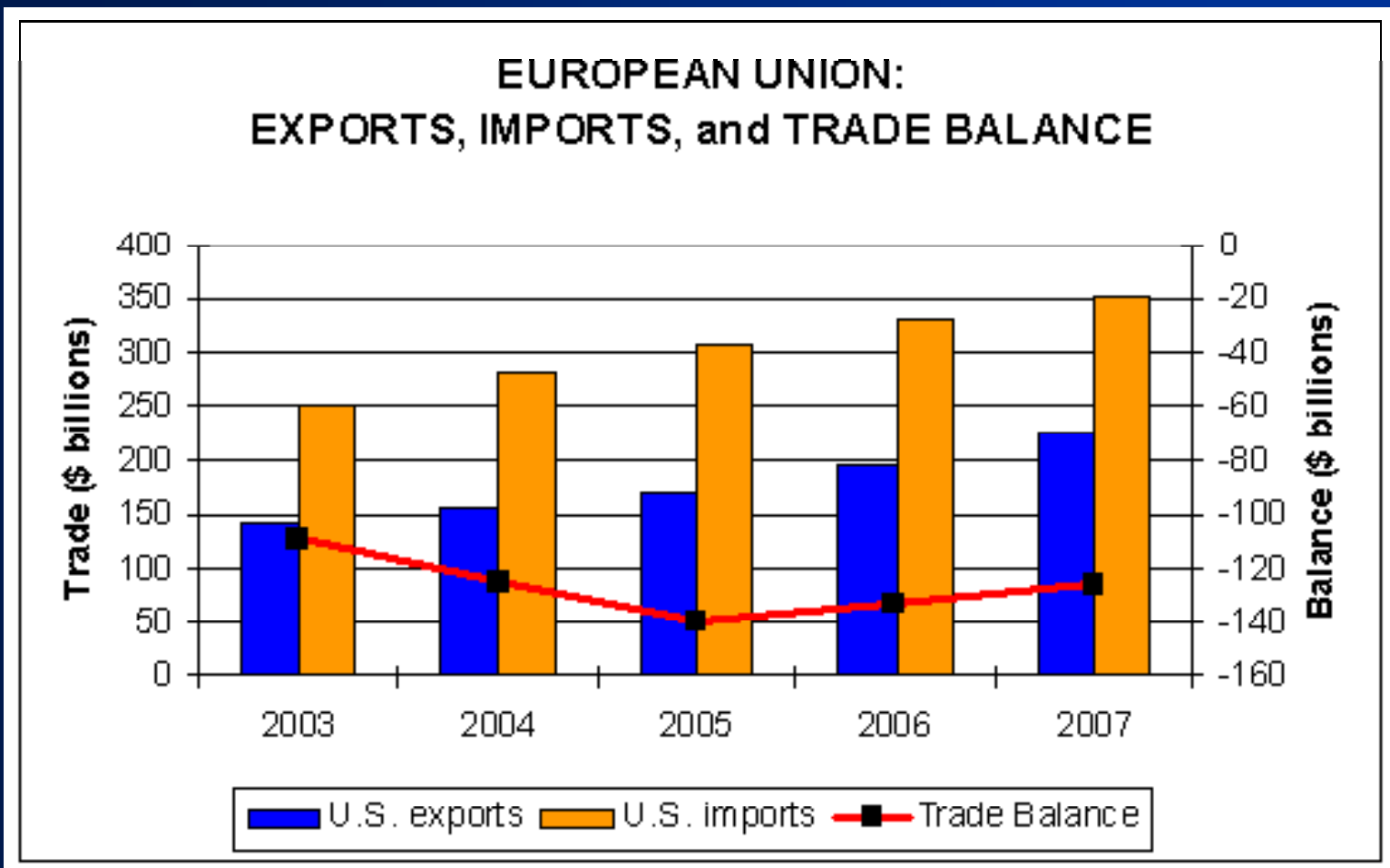
The EU-US relationship: Strong but with new dynamics

Figure A. Exports to the EU-25, 1999-2005



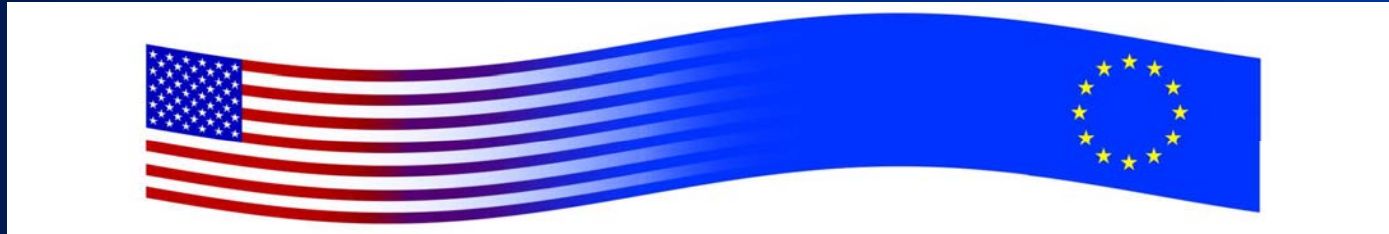
Source: European Commission.

The EU-US relationship: Strong but with new dynamics



www.usitc.gov

The New Transatlantic Agenda (1995)



- Still in effect, but other changes have overshadowed
- 4 overarching goals
 - Promote peace, stability, democracy & development
 - Expand world trade with closer economic ties
 - Respond to global challenges
 - “build bridges” across the Atlantic (education & culture)



EU-US Summit: Göteborg, Sweden (June 2001)

Outcomes: Focus on thematic areas

- Security challenges
- Fighting crime
- Multilateral trade (WTO)
- Environmental protection
- Fighting poverty & disease
in developing world
- Digital economy



US-EU Summit, May 2002

Issues

- Fight against terrorism (law enforcement cooperation, terrorist financing and non-proliferation)
- Regional issues (Middle East, Western Balkans, Russia, Afghanistan)
- Economic, Trade and Development issues, (Positive trade agenda, trade disputes and sustainable development)

Sensitive Issues in US – EU Relations

- Market protection
 - Anti-dumping rules
 - Steel tariffs
 - Farm subsidies
- Environmental regulation
- Electronic data privacy, travel and computing
- Food safety regulations (Beef hormones, GMOs)

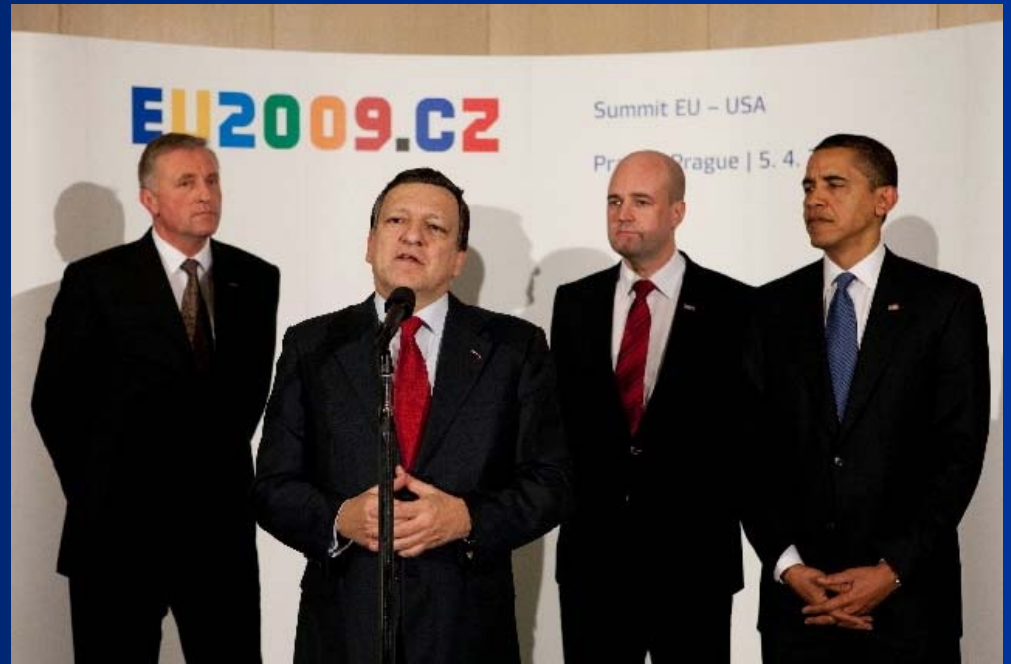


President Obama's 3 Summit European Tour: G20, NATO, EU

- G20 Summit in London
 - Other tensions (Merkel v. Obama v. Topolanek)
- External Relations (Commission)
- US Mission to the EU
- EU Delegation to the US

How does a summit work?

- Day before summit, Senior Level Group meets (top officials) along with Transatlantic Business Dialogue
- 3 leaders meet, then have broader meeting (plenary)
- Joint press conference
- What were this year's issues?



Topolanek, Barroso,
Reinfeldt, Obama 2009
Ec.europa.eu

Today: 27 members and counting

- How will the EU respond to the following?
 - Economic crisis
 - Trade
 - Membership (Turkey, Former Yugoslav states)
 - Lisbon Reform Treaty (i.e., “constitution”) passage
 - New Commission to be selected in Fall 2009
 - European Parliament Elections in June 7 & other national elections changing political landscape
 - Presidency of EU by Swedes began in June
 - What else???

Sources and Credits

- Photos and images slides 1-4, 6-7, 15-16: EU Audio visual services
- Slide 18 poll question comes from Eurobarometer data (the EU's polling service)
- Handouts were provided by the WAC, Dr. Lowe, and links are available to the NY Times, Time Magazine and the Economist.
- EU Mission to the U.S.: www.eurunion.org/eu
- US Mission to the EU: <http://useu.usmission.gov>
- Anthem of the EU (with youtube [video](#))